metro wknd
PHILLY
July 11-14, 2019
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C'EST LA VIE

Philadelphia is celebrating the national French holiday with colorful extravaganzas, unique specials, fun parties and more. 2

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION ISTOCK

Voyage to the Moon
A 50th Anniversary Concert
WITH
THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA
Gemma New, *conductor*
Michael Giacchino, *composer*
JULY 24
theMann.

GETTY IMAGES

JESSE EISENBERG

The actor stars in "The Art of Self-Defense." 12-13

TEAM USA

A ticker-tape parade was held for the World Cup champs. 17

Who do you like in the NFC East? 22
metro BET SUGAR HOUSE CASINO

ERIC ASHLEIGH

La fête nationale

Here is where to celebrate Bastille Day in Philly. **MOLLY GIVEN**

It's time to party French style this weekend in the City of Brotherly Love. Bastille Day is this Sunday, July 14, and in celebration of the anniversary of the Storming of the Bastille, top Philly spots are holding festive block parties, offering enticing specials and more. Here is where to celebrate Bastille Day in Philadelphia.

The Good King Tavern
The popular tavern will be hosting their annual Bastille Day block party in partnership with neighbor Hale & True Cider, and local partners Lo-Fi Aperitifs, Kronenbourg and Love City Brewing. The festivities will take place on Kater Street between 6th and 8th Streets and 7th Street between South and Bainbridge Streets. While at the event, Philadelphians can indulge in outdoor games (such as corn hole, soccer beer pong, jenga and ladder ball), live music, face painting, raffles and much more. The Good King Tavern's dining room will also be serving their a la carte menu with delicious dishes including steak tartare, escargot and seared foie gras from 12 p.m.-9 p.m. as well. *614 S 7th St.*

Royal Boucherie
The Old City hotspot is celebrating the French holiday with unique specials and fun happenings all weekend long. Guests can indulge in RB's French-themed happy hour highlighting enticing beer, wine and more specialties on Friday (5 p.m.-7 p.m.), stop by for a Bastille Burlesque Show on Saturday (showings at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.), or head to the hotspot for a decadent brunch on the big day, July 14. Brunch will feature live music, wigs, drinks, specials including eggs en cocotte, champagne-braised escargot and much more. *52 S 2nd St.*

Parc
What better way to spend Bastille Day than with colorful French specials, impressive entertainment and the gorgeous backdrop of Rittenhouse Park at the French-styled hotspot Parc? Parc's celebrations will feature a kids tent with balloon art and face painting, live entertainment including a stilt walker, a special photo installation at Rittenhouse Square that comes with specialty tags mimicking the Paris love locks to hang on the fence and much more. Parc will be open at 10 a.m. for brunch, festivities begin at noon. *227 S 18th St.*

ISTOCK

Bistrot La Minette
The charming French bistro is celebrating Bastille Day in a delicious style. Any Philadelphian who wishes to truly taste the flavors of France can head to this hotspot eatery to indulge in a tasty four-course meal for only $45. Guests will have their choice of soup, a buffet-style second course of pâtés and salads, then an entree of their choice with shared sides and a choice of dessert. Reservations are strongly recommended for this Sunday. *623 S 6th St.*

Ardmore
The Main Line is bringing France right to center stage this weekend with their colorful and high-energy Bastille Day celebration. Head to Station Avenue in Ardmore this Sunday for their all-day street celebration featuring French cuisine, wine, music, dancing, live performances, kid-friendly activities, a moon bounce, art activities and much more. If all the partying outdoors makes you hungry for a meal, head to Delice et Chocolat and The Bercy to indulge in their incredible French treats including a selection of French quiches, crepes, cakes, pastries, croissants, merguez sausage sandwiches, coffee and more. The Bercy will also showcase their outdoor French Wine Garden sponsored by Veuve Clicquot where guests can taste a vast selection of flavorful wines from around the country for only $20 in advance or $25 at the door. However, if you want to get the party started early, head to The Bercy starting at 11 a.m. for their special Bastille Day Grand Brunch Buffet to really start Bastille Day off right. The festival is free and will happen rain or shine. *Ardmore*

Fairmount's Annual Bastille Day Block Party
Although The London Grille is closed and the Eastern State Penitentiary is no longer involved, Fairmount is still celebrating Bastille Day and not holding back one bit. However, the celebration will take place this Saturday (from 1 p.m.-10 p.m.) instead of officially on July 14. Guests who head to Fairmount this weekend can enjoy live entertainment, food and beer trucks, outdoor games (including cornhole, ladder golf, twister and Jenga), raffles, face painting and much more. *Fairmount Avenue, between 22nd St. and Corinthian Ave.*

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Rob Thomas | Saturday, July 27
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Rob Thomas. GETTY

8 Fun things to do in Philly this weekend

Celebrate a Nile hippo's 19th birthday, head to a Harry Potter beer festival, and more. **MOLLY GIVEN**

GOING OUT

SPINBLEDON WHITE PARTY

Head to the one-of-a-kind ping-pong mecca, Spin, to celebrate the spirit of Wimbledon with an exciting white party. Philadelphians are encouraged to wear their best white attire and indulge in Spin's tasty happy hour specials while also testing their skills on the venue's state-of-the-art ping-pong tables. Guests will also have the chance to win enticing prizes including free samples of the Wimbledon Smash, white sweatbands and an English-inspired prize. **July 12, 9 p.m.-midnight, Spin Philadelphia, 211 S. 15th St., free, wearespin.com**

COMEDY

AN EVENING WITH LESLIE JONES

The "Saturday Night Live" star is coming to the City of Brotherly Love this weekend and hitting the stage at the Merriam Theater. The comedy superstar is also well known for her roles in "Ghostbusters," "Sing," "Lottery Ticket" and more. Jones will be hitting the stage in Philadelphia for one night only. **July 13, 7 p.m., Merriam Theater, 250 S. Broad St., $39-$59, kimmelcenter.org**

FAMILY

GENNY'S 19TH BIRTHDAY BASH

Head to the Adventure Aquarium in Camden to celebrate Genny the Nile hippo's 19th birthday with the whole family. Guests can join in on hippo feedings for a personal and up-close experience, indulge in birthday treats, sign a birthday card for Genny, check out the hippo curiosity table for some one-of-a-kind facts, head to the rotunda for a birthday-themed dance party and much more. The festivities will be happening all weekend long and offer something for anyone of any age. **July 12-14, various times, Camden Adventure Aquarium, 1 Riverside Dr., Camden, NJ, tickets vary, adventureaquarium.com**

LITTLE CHEF'S PIZZA CLASS

This class is perfect for all little tykes over the age of 3. Participants will learn how to make their own mini pizza creations alongside Pizzeria Vetri's chefs and culinary team. This delicious event is the ideal opportunity to create something with your little one and also have a sneak peek into how the famous pizza establishment produces their own impressive dishes. All children must be accompanied by an adult; ticket prices include admission for both. **July 13, noon, Pizzeria Vetri, 1939 Callowhill St., $35, pizzeriavetri.com**

ARTS & CULTURE

BARNES ON THE BLOCK

The Barnes Foundation is teaming up with Mural Arts Philadelphia this Sunday for a one-of-a-kind block party featuring food trucks, a beer garden, live music and art. While at the event, Philadelphians can indulge in delicious treats, play outdoor games, have a jam session, watch live glass-blowing, check out incredible works of art and much, much more. **July 14, 5-8 p.m., 20th and Callowhill, free, barnesfoundation.org**

MUSIC

YUENGLING'S 190TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMER CONCERT

Head to Pottsville to check out an exciting concert at America's oldest brewery. Rock band Better Than Ezra will be performing some of their greatest hits including "Desperately Wanting," "King of New Orleans," "Absolutely Still," "The Time of Year" and more while at this extravaganza. The band will hit the stage at 8 p.m. and fireworks will follow the performance. **July 13, 8 p.m., Yuengling's Pottsville Brewery, 420 Mahantongo St., Pottsville, free, yuengling.com**

ROB THOMAS

Listen to the sweet-sounding tunes from one of the most popular vocalists in the country, Rob Thomas. Thomas is hitting the stage at The Met Philadelphia while on his "Chip Tooth" tour and will be performing some of his greatest hits including "Her Diamonds," "Unwell," "Lonely No More," "If You're Gone," "She's So Mean," "Little Wonders" and more. **July 13, 8 p.m., The Met Philly, 858 N. Broad St., $34-$124, themetphilly.com**

FOOD & DRINK

POTTERHEADS BEER FESTIVAL

Calling all witches, wizards, muggles and "Harry Potter" enthusiasts: The most magical beer festival is coming to Philly this weekend. The event will feature a vast assortment of magical ales, cider potions, a butterscotch beer tavern (a spin on Butterbeer), live music, tasty treats, trivia and much more. **July 13, 6:30-10 p.m., 23rd Street Armory, 22 S. 23rd St., $42+, 23rdstreetarmory.org**

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Head to the Lehigh Valley this summer for their Musikfest. TED COLEGROVE

Fun things to do in the Lehigh Valley this summer

Celebrate the season with outdoor concerts, a blueberry festival and more.

MADELINE PRESLAND

If you want to get out of the city for a weekend or plan a day trip, the Lehigh Valley is a perfect destination for foodies, music lovers and outdoor adventurers. The region has some exciting (and delicious) festivals coming up in addition to beautiful hiking spots and a classic drive-in cinema experience. Here are five fun things to do in the Lehigh Valley this summer.

Blueberry Festival

Come hungry and ready to eat some berries during the Blueberry Festival at the historic Burnside Plantation. Buy pies and ice cream to enjoy during the event, or stock up on delicious jams and sauces. Other festival activities include cooking contests, a blueberry pie eating contest and beer tastings. *July 20 & 21, Burnside Plantation, 1461 Schoenersville Rd, Bethlehem, $10-$42 historicbethlehem.org*

Musikfest

One of the biggest music events in the Northeast is coming up next month. Get ready for more than 10 days of live music, food and fun during Musikfest in Bethlehem. Headliners include The Chainsmokers on Aug. 2, Weezer on Aug. 5 and Incubus on Aug. 7. The festival's multiple stages will feature other local bands and entertainment. In addition to music, this is a great opportunity to sample some of the area's best food and beer. Returning favorites include "fork free chicken and waffles" from Chick n' Cone and ice cream from Bethlehem Dairy. *Aug. 1-11, ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks, 101 Founders Way, Bethlehem, $79-$99, musikfest.org*

Dutch Springs Aqua Park

You might think you know what to expect from a water park, but Dutch Springs Aqua Park takes it to the next level. With attractions floating on an actual lake in a former quarry, Dutch Springs combines theme park fun with a true outdoor experience. Try the giant floating obstacle course, jump on a trampoline and water slide on the lake. The park also has a lakeside rock-climbing wall and ropes course. If you want to have a more chill day on the water, you can rent kayaks or paddle boats. *The park's summer hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday, and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. 4733 Hanoverville Rd, Bethlehem, $25-$34, dutchsprings.com*

Shankweiler's Drive-in Theatre

Movie buffs, history lovers and families will love visiting the oldest drive-in movie theatre in America. Catch a double feature of new releases at the charming outdoor cinema with a fun vintage vibe. The drive-in has screenings seven days per week through August. Starting this Friday, catch "Toy Story 4" every night at 9 p.m., followed by "Spiderman: Far From Home" at 11:25 p.m. *4540 Shankweiler Rd, Orefield, $10, shankweilers.com*

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

Escape the city for a scenic hike at a wild bird sanctuary right on the Appalachian flyway. There are eight miles of rocky trails good for more experienced hikers, or a shorter walk near the visitor's center for kids and less experienced hikers. The trails have a series of scenic lookout points for you to take in the natural beauty and try to spot raptors in their natural habitat. *1700 Hawk Mountain Rd, Kempton, hawkmountain.org*

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Hotel Monaco debuts new pop-up hotel suite

ALL PHOTOS SEAN BAUER

"Love Is Suite" is perfect for a couple's staycation.
MADELINE PRESLAND

There's a hotel room that meets all your Instagram-worthy travel goals right here in Philly.

If you want to escape the real world without going too far, finding the perfect staycation hotel is a must. Treating yourself and your partner to a night away is the perfect way to make date night even more memorable, and why not make it an opportunity to explore your own city? Hotel Monaco (433 Chestnut St.) is a chic boutique hotel in Old City that has all of the essentials for a staycation: in-room spa treatments, curated bath toiletries from Philly's own Duross & Langel and a beautiful rooftop bar. The luxurious rooms are styled to feel modern yet cozy, with patterned wallpaper, comfy couches and bold furniture. But there's more than great amenities and photogenic decor. The hotel wants travelers to focus on love and communication, and take this to the next level with their pop-up "Love Is Suite" room.

"Love Is Suite" incorporates a few interactive elements. Travelers can take Polaroid photos of themselves and add them to a guest book with notes. A "wishing tree" gives travelers the opportunity to leave pins on a map of the world and leave advice on travel, relationships or anything else. For shaking things up while staying in the room, try mixing aphrodisiac cocktails made with aperitifs and tequila.

Travelers can book this corner room through Aug. 31 for a romantic experience to make each moment special. Though social media can fuel your wanderlust, it's also important to take a step back and focus on making real connections while traveling. Kimpton, the hotel company that owns Hotel Monaco, makes this part of their mission through the Kimpton Stay Human Project. This initiative is changing the way the hotel describes its experiences, and aims to help all travelers make connections, even while traveling alone.

Sights to see

Hotel Monaco is close to a range of excellent restaurants and things to do. Some rooms face Independence Hall at 5th and Chestnut, and the Museum of the American Revolution (101 S. 3rd St.) is a short stroll down the block. For dinner, make reservations at Zahav (237 St James Pl.). The Israeli restaurant was named the best restaurant in America by the James Beard foundation earlier this year. Make sure you treat yourself to a Parisian-style brunch at Royal Boucherie (52 S. 2nd St.), including a few of their craft cocktails.

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This furniture comes from a galaxy far, far away

Sideboard of the Manila showroom in Makati City, Philippines, where the "Star Wars" collection was presented for the first time. KENNETHCOBONPUE

Collection inspired by "Star Wars"

The epic space film saga relaunch of 2015, "Episode VII: The Force Awakens," has seen many products based on the story flooding the market. But recently a new stunning collection of furniture inspired by George Lucas' plot was developed by Filipino designer Kenneth Cobonpue. The so-called "Star Wars" line is totally handmade and emulates ships and characters from the movie. **MWN**

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It's a TKO

Jesse Eisenberg stars as Casey Davies. ALL PHOTOS BLEEKER STREET

Jesse Eisenberg gives Metro the scoop on his role in the new dark comedy "The Art of Self-Defense."

MOLLY GIVEN

There are few movies in today's day and age that completely pull the wool over your eyes up until the very last scene — and Riley Stearn's second feature film, "The Art of Self-Defense," is one of them. The film stars Jesse Eisenberg and tells the story of Casey Davies, a frail, innocent and completely defenseless 36-year-old man who is brutally mugged in a vicious attack that almost kills him. The attack leads Casey to join a karate dojo, where he meets a slew of polarizing characters including the deceitfully bellicose Sensei (Alessandro Nivola).

The interesting themes that continually run throughout the feature highlight the extremes of human behavior and shine a light on how society's expectations can lead people to do very dangerous, and

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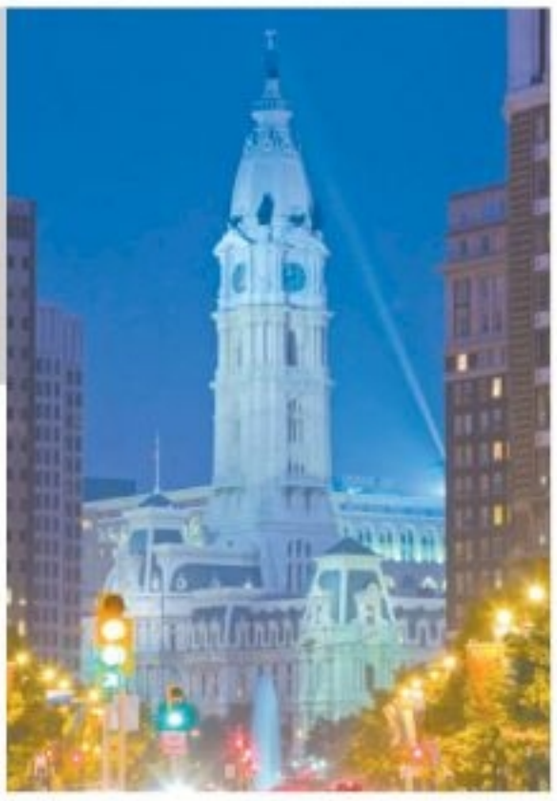

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almost uncharacteristic, things. "When I first read the script, I thought, I don't want to do this kind of thing, I know what it is," says Eisenberg. "By Page 15, I realized the movie is completely different from what I originally expected. It's actually a brilliant satire on the absurdities of masculinity and the length men go to in the attempt to be strong."

Although the film does highlight the pressure one can feel from a misogynistic environment, that's not what the point is.

"It all comes from a sincere world perspective. Riley felt a genuine concern with his place in society as a male. That kind of earnestness comes through in the humor and the violence," says Eisenberg. "Riley practices jiu-jitsu every day, so this was not written by someone who thinks karate is silly or something that can be mocked. Same with violence. He thinks violence has some utility, but he just didn't know what that utility was. It's not a movie that mocks karate or mocks men. It mostly questions misogyny and masculinity, but it's questioning it from a place of concern rather than from a place of mockery. I think that's why it all works, because it feels sincere and didactic and doesn't feel condescending."

"I realized the movie is completely different from what I originally expected. It's actually a brilliant satire on the absurdities of masculinity and the length men go to in the attempt to be strong."
Jesse Eisenberg

Just like in the fighting world, the film starts off with a warm-up of events, throws a few punches and then absolutely knocks you out with startling twists, turns and surprises. Plus, there are actual knockouts in the dojo as well. "I did about three intense weeks of training for the movie. I was lucky, I was only a Yellow Belt so I didn't have to be as intense as some of the other characters," says Eisenberg. "I thought of everything to the extreme. Casey is timid to an extreme, and then when he becomes strengthened, he is aggressive to an extreme."

The extreme nature of the film works well with the setting that Stearns wanted to create, which is not supposed to be known to the audience. Think of it as a parallel universe where power is limited even when ego is not, and the characters are free to interpret and blur the lines of moral ambiguity. "There is a certain bluntness and formality to the way the characters behave. It's aided by the fact that we can't place it in a specific time or location," says Eisenberg. "The characters feel like they are part of the same universe. Even the powerful and scary people in the movie are not horrifying movie characters. The antagonist in this movie is actually just a small-business owner who runs a karate studio. He's not trying to take over the world. All of the ambitions of these characters feel small even if they're malevolent or dangerous. It's an aesthetic that allows for the kind of commentary on masculinity to be highlighted without it feeling like it's a specific commentary on men today or on political situations."

Eisenberg's Casey is the driving force behind the movie's theme. "Casey is the perfect member for this group. He's desperate to belong somewhere, he's desperate for guidance, he's desperate for authority."

The ending, just like the film, is not what you would expect. Also just like the film, it is a comical hit on the ironic stipulations that are put on individuals. It serves its purpose of not trying to hammer a message down anyone's throats but still showcases the film's impressive ability to continually surprise.

"Casey is kind of a hollowed-out creature who doesn't seem to have his own core convictions until the movie finds its revolution. The surprise for the audience is that Casey has concocted a plan, after you're watching him for an hour and a half, as this kind of cipher of a person who doesn't have his own set of opinions," says Eisenberg. "So you realize he has grown, but it's just done in such a shocking way that it's in line with the rest of the movie which is unpredictable, odd and unnerving."

"The Art of Self-Defense" is satirical, dark and quite literally shocking. "The movie is not fully one thing," says Eisenberg. "It's complicated."

"The Art of Self-Defense" opens in theaters Friday, July 12.

The School District of Philadelphia is hiring for positions in Northeast Philadelphia.

Candidates will be expected to complete an application and interview for one of the roles below at the event. Arrive by 10am to learn more about the positions. Interviews will begin at 12pm.

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Fun things to do in Philly this month

11

Stroll the Street

July 11

Head to Manayunk every Thursday at 5 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day and enjoy local food trucks, vendors and live music. **July 11-Aug. 29, Manayunk, 4312 Main St., free**

12

Weird Al Yankovic

July 12

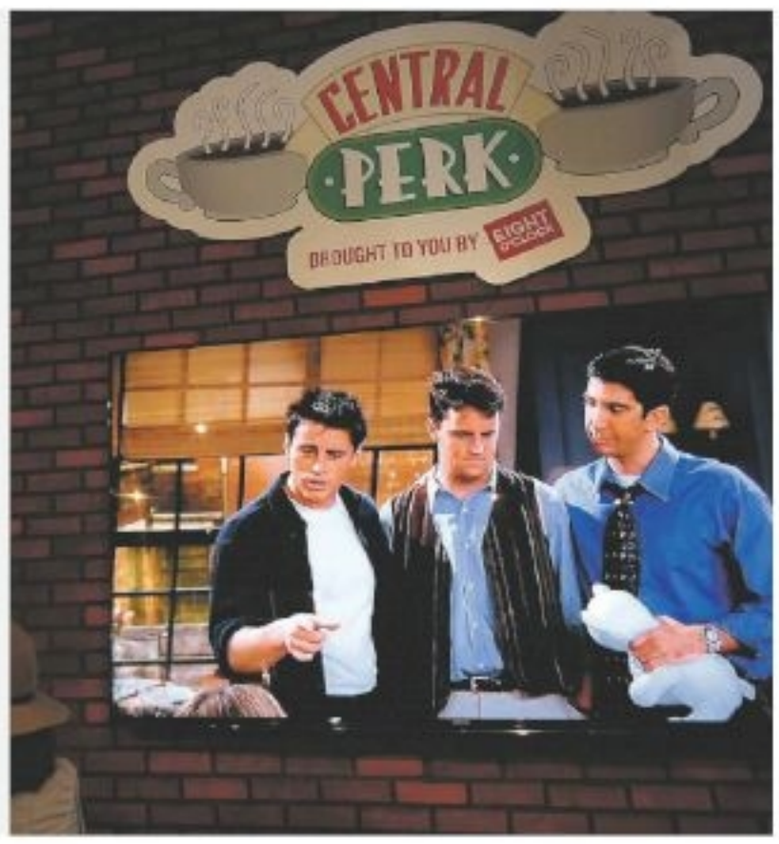
Witness this one-of-a-kind performance from Weird Al Yankovic and his orchestra this month at the new Met Philadelphia venue. **July 12, 8 p.m., The Met Philadelphia, 858 N. Broad St.**

13

"Friends" Trivia Bar Crawl

July 13

Hang out with Rachel, Chandler, Phoebe, Joey, Monica and Ross, plus some of your other friends during this exciting trivia bar crawl centered around the popular show. **July 13, 4-10 p.m., JJ Bootleggers, 35 S. 2nd St., $19**



13

Florida Georgia Line

July 13

The wildly popular country group is hitting the stage and will be playing some of their greatest hits including "Simple" and "Cruise." **July 13, 7 p.m., BB&T Pavilion, 1 Harbour Blvd., Camden, NJ, $75-$143**

18

Ne-Yo

July 18

Experience the smooth sounds and milky melodies of Ne-Yo when he hits the stage in Philadelphia this month. **July 18, 7 p.m., Dell Music Center, 2400 Strawberry Mansion Dr., $30-$75**

19

Bluebirds and Blooms

July 19 Head to The Bourse for a special girls' night featuring delicious craft cocktails and fun arts and crafts activities with beautiful flowers. **July 19, 6:30-8 p.m., The Bourse, 111 S. Independence Mall E., $65**

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ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Glow in the Dark Art Night
July 20

Head to the Philly Art Collective's gallery to experience a glow-in-the-dark art exhibit, music, deep conversation and much more. **July 20, 7-11 p.m., Philly Art Collective, 253 N. 3rd St., free**

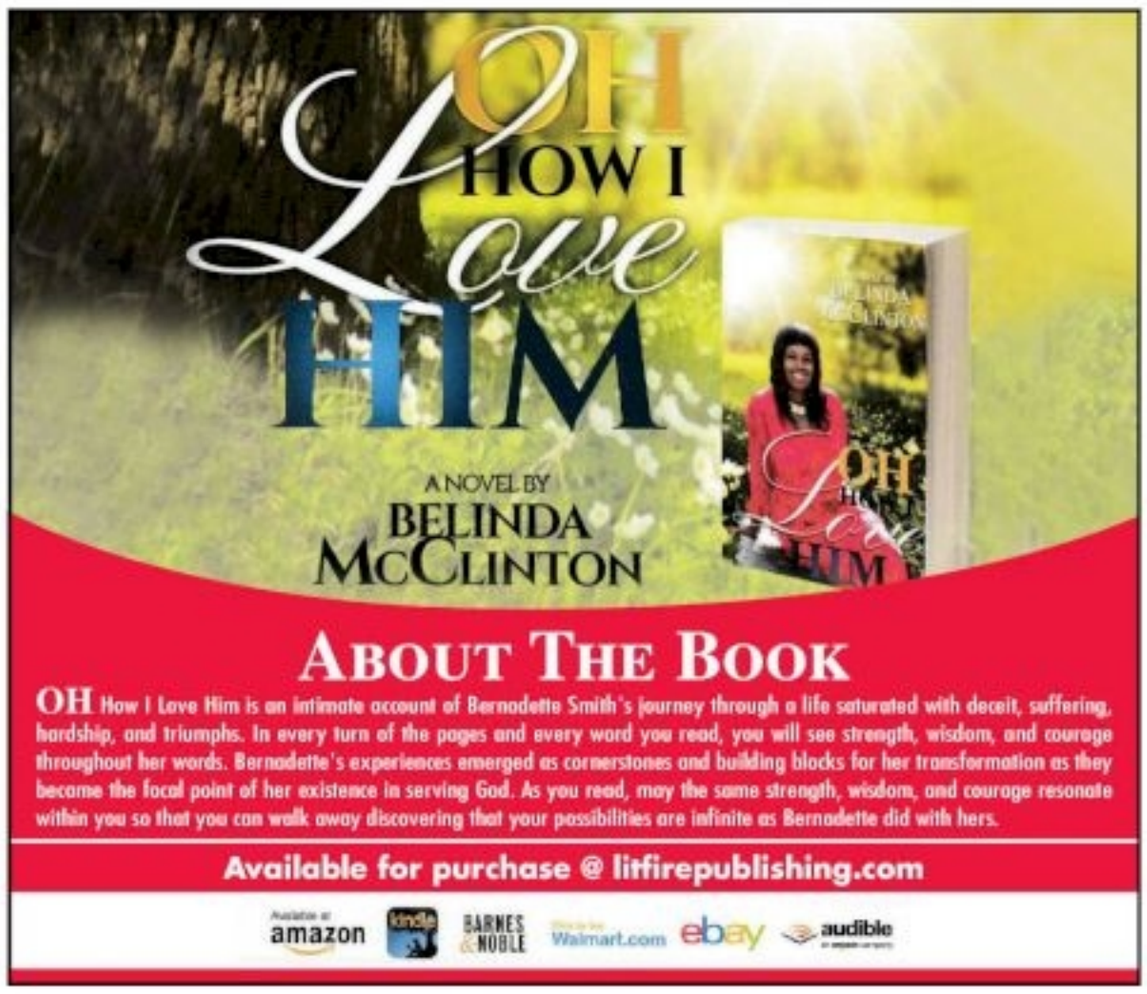
21 Comedians on the Loose
July 21

Head to Punch Line Philly to witness some of the best stand-up comics in the City of Brotherly Love. Laughter is guaranteed. **July 21, 7 p.m., Punch Line Philly, 33 E. Laurel St., $20-$25**

Rolling Stones
July 23

The legendary band is coming to the City of Brotherly Love to perform some of their iconic hits including "Paint It Black," "Gimme Shelter" and more. **July 23, 8 p.m., Lincoln Financial Field, 1020 Pattison Ave., $60+**

Artisanal Wine and Cheese Pairing
July 25 Refine your palate with some of the most spirited wine selections and indulgent cheese choices at this delicious pairing event. **July 25, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Wine School of Philadelphia, 109 S. 22nd St., prices vary**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— Ed, Metro Boston reader

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Aries You may know what you want, but make sure to think about the people who will be affected by your decision. Change is only useful if the results you get benefit everyone.

Taurus Let your feelings rise to the surface, and find out where you stand. You may not like what you hear, but it will give you a place to start if you want to improve.

Gemini Have an open mind, listen to what others have to say and be willing to make reasonable, minor adjustments. Defuse tense situations.

Cancer If you care and share, you will make a difference. Personal improvements will diminish insecurities that have been holding you back. Don't be hesitant to engage in events and activities. You may meet someone special.

Leo Hold on to a secret or a surprise you are planning. Prepare to make a big splash when the time is right. A premature gesture won't render the results you want.

Virgo Participation will change your life. Become more engaged in matters that concern you, sign up, speak up and make a difference. Romance is on the rise.

Libra A change in the way you make or handle your money or to the way you negotiate will lead to more available cash. Discipline will help you make positive adjustments.

Scorpio Emotional matters will need to be addressed, but first consider using actions rather than words to get what you want. Show your feelings and make positive adjustments.

Sagittarius Check out your options before you approach institutions or large corporations with your plans. Preparation will be the deciding factor when it comes to your success.

Capricorn Don't fear doing things your way or taking a different approach. Try updating something to suit the changing times. Romance is highlighted.

Aquarius Mull over your plans before you share them with others. If someone wants to take a different path, so be it; do what works best for you. Build your own opportunities.

Pisces You have plenty to contribute. Don't hesitate to move forward with your plans or to implement change that will help you reach your goal. Treat opposition with dignity, not with force. EUGENIA LAST

Confetti showers for Team USA while gov mandates equal pay

The World Cup champions were honored with a ticker-tape parade on Wednesday.

U.S. women's soccer team World Cup champions. REUTERS

Amid confetti and chants of "equal pay," New York honored the U.S. women's soccer team on Wednesday with a ticker-tape parade up the "Canyon of Heroes," celebrating its World Cup triumph and hailing the players' emergence as icons of women's rights.

The squad's 2-0 win over the Netherlands in the final match on Sunday capped a World Cup campaign that attracted vast television audiences, reflecting the popularity of a U.S. soccer team that has dominated international competition, winning a record fourth title.

A party atmosphere filled Lower Manhattan as marching bands and women on motorcycles escorted floats carrying the players, coaches and staff up Broadway to a City Hall rally along a route dubbed the "Canyon of Heroes."

But the parade in New York's Financial District was more than a tribute to a championship team, which has been involved in a well-publicized fight for equal pay with the U.S. men's national team. The cause has endeared the players to those who support demands by women in general for pay equality.

In March, all 28 players on the women's team filed a gender discrimination lawsuit against the U.S. Soccer Federation, demanding equal compensation with their male counterparts who earn much a higher base pay.

"We stand with them in solidarity. Equal pay for equal work," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo told a press conference at the start of the parade, after signing into law an equal pay bill passed by the New York State Legislature this year.

Olivia Ciampi, 15, of Queens, New York, who joined the festivities with her mother, agreed equal pay for the team was long overdue.

"They work so hard and they win so many titles and they really do so much and they deserve it," she said.

"This is how I want my daughters to see what women can do and what women should be,"

> **"We stand with them in solidarity. Equal pay for equal work."**
>
> Gov. Andrew Cuomo

added Gabrielle Blecher, 49, of Brooklyn, a mother of daughters aged 11 and 13, who works in an office along the parade route.

The monthlong World Cup tournament attracted a huge television audience and gave the sport fresh momentum in the United States, where it has traditionally lagged in popularity behind American football, baseball and basketball.

At City Hall, Mayor Bill de Blasio presented the ceremonial keys to the city to the team, and star players Megan Rapinoe, Alex Morgan and Carli Lloyd thanked the country for supporting the team.

"Make this world a better place," said Rapinoe, the tournament's top scorer, who thrilled the crowd with her now-famous post-goal pose, arms aloft and a beaming smile on her face.

"Love more, hate less," the purple-haired Rapinoe said, pointing to the team's diversity in terms of race and sexual orientation. "There has been so much contention in these past few years."

As she spoke, a few spectators waved "Trump 2020" flags and one held a sign calling Rapinoe an "America hater," an apparent reference to her refusal to put a hand over her heart when the U.S. national anthem was played during the World Cup. REUTERS

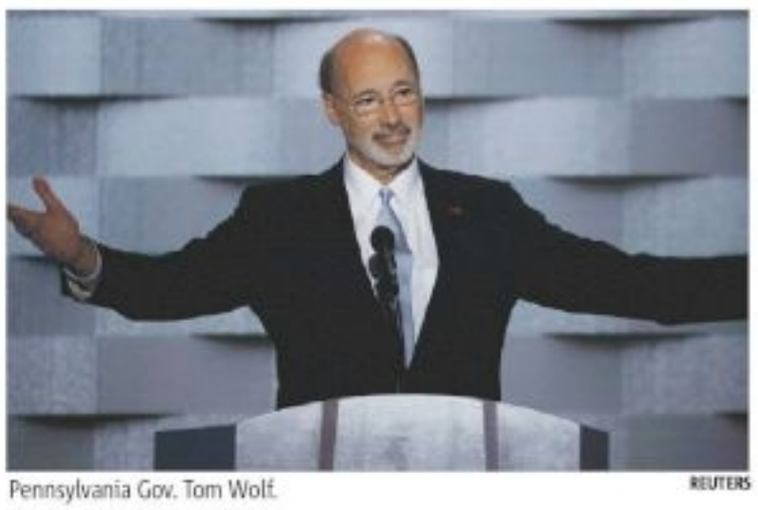
Gov says state won't use tax dollars to restart refinery

Gov. Tom Wolf does not support using taxpayer dollars to help save the Philadelphia Energy Solutions refinery complex from permanent closure, the governor's spokesman said on Wednesday.

"The administration does not plan [on] expending any funding to maintain the site as a refinery," Wolf spokesman J.J. Abbott said in a statement to Reuters, saying there were "significant challenges" to such a plan.

The refinery suffered a massive fire last month that prompted owners to begin shutting the 335,000-barrel-per-day plant and laying off about 1,000 people. The cause of the fire is still unknown, and investigations are expected to take months to complete.

"In addition to the damage to the facility, there are outstanding questions about safety and contamination," Abbott said. "Furthermore, the facility faces competitive challenges against more modern refineries that would be extremely costly and difficult to overcome."


Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf. REUTERS

The refinery would need significant ongoing investments from its owners to continue operating safely, he said, adding that Wolf's office wanted any proposal for the site's next phase to include "a sustainable long-term plan that allows for cleanup and new job creation."

The lack of government support — both politically and financially — will likely make it harder for PES to sell and restart the largest and oldest refinery on the U.S. East Coast.

Ryan O'Callaghan, head of the refinery union, criticized Wolf's position.

"I am sure the governor would fall over himself if it was Amazon looking to relocate here," he said.

O'Callaghan, who works as an operator at the refinery, said losing the facility would mean a drop in tax revenue for the area and a lull in economic activity. REUTERS

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Trump labor chief Acosta defends Epstein plea deal, calling him 'a sexual predator'

U.S. Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta makes a statement on his involvement in a non-prosecution agreement with financier Jeffrey Epstein. REUTERS

Alexander Acosta says he has no intention of stepping down.

Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta on Wednesday defended a non-prosecution agreement he approved more than 10 years ago with financier Jeffrey Epstein, who has now been charged with sex trafficking of underage girls.

Acosta, who was a U.S. prosecutor in Florida at the time, said the new prosecution against Epstein allowed him to more fully explain the decision he made. He said that had his office not been involved, Epstein would have only faced one charge from state prosecutors.

"Without the work of our prosecutors, Epstein would have gotten away with just that state charge" and avoided jail time, Acosta said. "He was and is a sexual predator."

Acosta gave no indication he would resign after days of calls by Democrats for him to step down and said he has the support of Republican President Donald Trump.

"My relationship with the president is outstanding," Acosta said.

Acosta would not say if he would make the same decision regarding Epstein again today.

"We live in a different world; today's world does not allow some of the victim shaming that would have taken place at trial 12 years ago," Acosta said. "I don't think we can say, take a case that is this old and fully know how it would play out today."

The deal came under fresh scrutiny after a Miami Herald investigation shed new light on it, spurring federal prosecutors in New York this week to file new sex trafficking charges against Epstein.

The federal 2007 non-prosecution agreement in Florida, where Acosta was serving as a U.S. attorney, allowed Epstein to reach a plea deal in 2008 on a lesser prostitution offense and serve 13 months in a county jail, with leave during the day. He also had to register as a sex offender. A judge earlier this year ruled the deal was illegal.

On Monday, the U.S. attorney in Manhattan said it was not bound by the plea deal and accused Epstein of luring dozens of girls, some as young as 14, and coercing them into sex acts. Epstein remains in jail while he awaits his bond hearing scheduled for Monday morning.

The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Professional Responsibility, which investigates alleged misconduct by department lawyers, is reviewing how Acosta and the other prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida handled the Epstein deal.

Most of its findings are heavily redacted and do not name people subject to its inquiries, although it has issued public reports in some high-profile matters in the past.

The Justice Department disclosed the review into Acosta earlier this year after Republican U.S. Sen. Ben Sasse raised concerns about the handling of the Epstein case with then-Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, according to a person familiar with their conversation. REUTERS

BRIEF

City's first health care-backed medical marijuana dispensary set to open

The first Pennsylvania health care-affiliated marijuana dispensary will open in Center City this fall.

The dispensary will be affiliated with Solterra Care, whose parent company is MLH Explorations LLC. Inquirer.com reported that the company won a permit to partner with the Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University.

The permit — known as a clinical research permit — is one of three given out by Pennsylvania. It will let the company grow marijuana in Bucks County. MLH's permit allows it to open five more dispensaries through the region.

Inquirer.com reports that the facility will be located at 809 Locust St., and it will be approximately 4,400 square feet. According to reports, it will cost MLH at least $800,000 to upgrade the space.

The storefront will be located close to the Thomas Jefferson University main campus, which is offering certificates in Cannabis Medicine, Cannabinoid Chemistry and Toxicology, and Cannabinoid Pharmacology.

"The Lambert Center for the Study of Medicinal Cannabis & Hemp at Thomas Jefferson University is the nation's only comprehensive academic resource for education, research and practice pertaining to the potential use of cannabinoids as medical therapy," according to Jefferson University's website.

The interest in marijuana in the medical field has grown extensively within such a short time, and it's expected to continue growing in the future. According to a study done by Leafly, the cannabis industry has created over 211,000 full-time jobs. According to a state-by-state breakdown, Pennsylvania alone has over 5,000 jobs supported by the cannabis industry.

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The Metropolitan Correctional Center (C) is seen next to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. REUTERS IMAGES

Financier Epstein goes from luxury life to confined jail cell after sex trafficking charges

Wealthy American financier Jeffrey Epstein, charged with sex trafficking of underage girls, is now confined to a cell in a fortress-like concrete tower jail that has been criticized by inmates and lawyers for harsh conditions.

After his arrest on Saturday at New Jersey's Teterboro Airport upon arrival from Paris in his private plane, Epstein was likely put in solitary confinement at the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) in Lower Manhattan, according to defense lawyers and others familiar with the jail.

"When you have someone that's allegedly a sexual predator like Jeffrey Epstein, he'll need to be in protective custody," Andrew Laufer, a lawyer who has represented MCC inmates in civil lawsuits against prison officials, said in an interview.

Epstein pleaded not guilty in the nearby federal court on Monday to one count of sex trafficking and one count of sex trafficking conspiracy. He will remain in jail at least until a bail hearing on July 15. Federal prosecutors have said he is a flight risk because of his wealth and international ties.

In the past, Epstein, 66, was known for socializing with politicians and royalty, with friends who have included President Donald Trump, former president Bill Clinton and, according to court papers, Britain's Prince Andrew. None of those people were mentioned in the indictment, and prosecutors declined to comment on anyone said to be associated with Epstein.

The indictment said Epstein made young girls perform nude "massages" and other sex acts, and paid some girls to recruit others, from at least 2002 to 2005 at his mansion in New York and estate in Florida.

Marc Fernich, a lawyer for Epstein, declined to comment on Epstein's current conditions.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) said it does not release information on an inmate's conditions of confinement for safety and security reasons.

The MCC houses about 800 inmates, most of whom are awaiting trial and have not been convicted. Prominent inmates have included New York Mafia bosses, the fraudster Bernie Madoff and the Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman.

Inmates and defense lawyers have complained of rat and cockroach infestations and uncomfortable extremes of heat and cold or problems with the water supply.

The jail's harshest unit, known colloquially as "10 South," has been compared unfavorably to the U.S. prison camp Guantanamo Bay. In 2011, rights group Amnesty International said the unit, which has also been used to house people accused of terrorism, flouts "international standards for humane treatment."

One defense lawyer, who asked to remain anonymous, said that Epstein is likely in "9 South," a separate special housing unit.

Inmates in protective custody are allowed out of their cell for recreation only one hour a day, according to BOP guidelines and interviews with lawyers. REUTERS

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Lithuanian couple defends world wife-carrying championship title

Vytautas Kirkliauskas carried his wife 277 yards in just over a minute.

REUTERS

A Lithuanian couple won the World Wife-Carrying Championship for a second time in a row in the Finnish town of Sonkajarvi on Saturday, triumphing in a contest where men complete an obstacle course with their wives slung over their shoulders.

Each year, the championship draws thousands of visitors to the town of only about 4,000 inhabitants in central Finland. Saturday's competition was the 24th year it has been held.

Having gained followers across the world, preliminary competitions were held in countries such as the United States, Australia, Poland and Britain, organizers said on their website.

Among the two dozen contesting couples, Vytautas Kirkliauskas and his wife Neringa Kirkliauskiene came out on top for a second straight year, completing a 277-yard obstacle course featuring a water trap in one minute and six seconds.

The Lithuanian couple claimed the first place prize — consisting of the wife's weight in beer — after beating six-time champion Taisto Miettinen of Finland and his partner Katja Kovanen by the slimmest of margins — 0.1 seconds.

"I was looking at the watch and I thought I'm not going to make it, but we did it," Kirkliauskas said.

Wife-carrying as a sport drew inspiration from the 19th century legend of Ronkainen the Robber, who compelled would-be members of his gang to prove their mettle by carrying sacks of grain or live pigs over a similar course.

The competition is also said to look back to an even earlier practice of wife-stealing — leading many present-day contestants to compete with someone else's wife. REUTERS

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PUBLIC STORAGE # 22328, 245 West Chester Pike, Havertown, PA 19083, (484) 247-3851
July 24, 2019 Time: 10:00 AM

B039 - Finch, Alesha; B045 - SOMMER, SANDRA D; B064 - Upper Darby Pain Management Cavoto, Robert; B129 - Jae, Theotis; B175 - SOMMER, SANDRA; B206 - Boyd, Jamir; B243 - SOMMER, SANDRA; C024 - Knots-Miller, Jamella; C126 - Jackson, Alyssa; C158 - Lites, Jeffrey; C195 - Schanbacher, Nan

PUBLIC STORAGE # 23101, 8401 Lansdowne Ave, Upper Darby, PA 19082, (484) 268-5971
July 24, 2019 Time: 10:30 AM

A102 - Mcdonald, Andrew; A112 - Bitros, Barbara; A201 - Sizemore, Rebecca; A306 - Quinones, Chauntal; A403 - Dill, Ashley; A502 - Sizemore, Reginald; A505 - Blue, William; A548 - Devlin, Sherri; A615 - Latif, Larry; A716 - Dassama, Sallay; A801 - Beawin, Prince; B1027 - Soto, Indira; B4006 - Tillman, Frances; B920 - Behl, Courtney; C5004 - Mustafa, Haliyma; C9030 - Henning, Tiffany

PUBLIC STORAGE # 23421, 6330 Market Street, Upper Darby, PA 19082, (484) 273-0258
July 24, 2019 Time: 11:00 AM

A016 - Bryant, Beverly; A153 - Cutler, Kevin; B199 - Mills, Marilyn; B235- Lawson, Tiffany; B272 - Phillip, Arnette; B281 - Williams, Shanell; B286 - Hinson, Renee; B297 - Tucker, Rosalie; B331 - Milliner, Aisha; B341 - Howard, Dolores; B354 - Hafeez, Sabria; B364 - Patterson, Ethel; B377 - Morse, Walkeem; B415 - Chestnutt, Bennette; B420 - Taylor, Chardia; B481 - Brown, Alexis; B528 - Burns, Karen; B549 - Williams, Brittney; C603 - Mengue, Christine Mary; C651 - Perez, Michelle; C685 - Hill, Kevin; C696 - King, Gloria; C725 - Crowder, Carolyn; C775 - Harris, Terrence; C816 - Carter, Syreeta; C903 - Ford, Tiffany; C935 - Mcbrid, Ciera

PUBLIC STORAGE # 08128, 7000 Lindbergh Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19153, (215) 309-8051
July 24, 2019 Time: 01:00 PM

0027 - Dyer, Rodney; 0045 - Copper, Nicole; 0112 - Lewis, Richard; 0142 - Weston, Ginger; 0145 - Fields, David; 0224 - Austin, Ashley; 0258 - Fairfax, Kianna; 0261 - Butler, Edward; 0455 - Gyamfi, Yaw; 0458 - Graham, Dimetrius; 0539 - JAMES, CHARLES; 0563 - Godwin, Grace; 0591 - Autry, Thomas; 0640 - LUCIFERO, ANGELA; 0641 - Price, Wilhelmina; 0645 - Bryant, Winston; 0651 - Lewis, Aisha; 0673 - MCCLELAND, Kadeidra; 0719 - Clark, Chanelle; 0815 - Francis, Sophia; 0816 - Sewell, James; 0819 - Williams, Hiram; 0852 - Brown, Marquita; 0855 - FRANKS, JERMERE; 0906 - Irving, Niefiece; 0915 - Thompson, Tenia; 0936 - Greene, April; 0941 - Spraggins, Briana; 1012 - Combs, Frances; 1029 - Gaines, Kim; 1075 - Ewing, Del; 1078 - Ewing, Del; 1083 - Dixon, Artez

PUBLIC STORAGE # 08130, 592 Swedesford Road, Berwyn, PA 19312, (484) 626-0120
July 25, 2019 Time: 10:00 AM

2434 - Kincade, Julie

PUBLIC STORAGE # 29204, 2112 W. Main Street, Norristown, PA 19403, (484) 290-0217
July 25, 2019 Time: 10:30 AM

1134 - Ledebur, Alexandra; 1169 - Morrile, Sherelle; 3033 - Ciatti, Elizabeth; 3090 - Becks, Gary; 3098 - Ballard, Donna; 3116 - Altieri, Robin; 3175 - Scott, Carla; 3191 - Simpkins, Michael; 3207 - Rose, Ashley; 3222 - Kakou, Ezani; B1027- Woodson, Lori; C1027 - Hussar, Christie

PUBLIC STORAGE # 23102, 2025 Chemical Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462, (484) 408-0906
July 25, 2019 Time: 11:00 AM

C123 - Beaver, Michael; E247 - Byrd, Kenya; E302 - Keefer, Lori; F403 - Williams, Siloam

Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available prior to the sale. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be in cash or credit card-no checks. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By PS Orangeco, Inc., 701 Western Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201. (818) 244-8080

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PUBLIC STORAGE # 25765, 2345 Castor Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19134, (215) 600-1197
7/23/2019 Time: 10:00 AM

1043 - Boston, LAqwanda; 1049 - Hill, Bridgette; 1079 - Reilly, Sarah; 1087 - Dendall, Tina; 1171 - Crowder, Samuel; 1183 - Ayl-Kumi, Jemima; 1196 - Grillo, Lisa; 1275 - Dunson, Raheem; 1301 - Rodriguez, Rose; 2047 - Merrique, Darryl; 2071 - Riggins, Natasha; 2106 - Hamlin, Candice; 2127 - Negron, Priscilla; 2139 - BURGESS, ELIZABETH; 2196 - Midenberg Law Firm, Pc/Mildenberg, Brian; 2251 - Colon, Raymond; 3060 - Narcisse, Ceshia; 3069 - Jordon, Shannon; 3124 - Torres, Dolores; 3134 - Fernandez, Ramon; 3382 - Harris, Doreen; 3412 - Sommerville, William; 4055 - Lopez, Bobby; 4119 - Ulloa, Penny

PUBLIC STORAGE # 29145, 2190 Wheatsheaf Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19137, (215) 309-8042
7/23/2019 Time: 11:00 AM

A102 - Santiago, Melanie; A172 - Dabney, Lois; B077 - Navarro, Cassandra; B127 - Hainey, Helen; E082 - Ferguson, Carlease; E105 - Simmons, Angel; E126 - Murphy, Lakisha; F013 - CHMURA, GREGORY; G008 - Buggey, John; G019 - Portes, Mayra

PUBLIC STORAGE # 24417, 6301 Tacony Street, Philadelphia, PA 19135, (215) 309-8025
7/23/2019 Time: 12:00 PM

A045 - Cossom, Natasha; A068 - Ali, Wali; A089 - Stolle, Dawn; B124 - Williams, Brian; B190 - Bean, Bridget; C215 - Public Guardian Schlachter-Jacob, Amanda; C254 - Lewis, Mario; C256 - Grant, Kim Lee; C303 - Colwell, Edmund; C332 - Jones, Dominique; C335 - Helping Hands Home Remodel Randall, Daniel; C348 Martinez Genao, Paul; C358 - Mcfeeters, Kaythyn; D438 - Reichart, Ryan; D457 - Serfass, Marc

PUBLIC STORAGE # 21808, 7571 Ridge Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19128, (215) 309-8006
7/24/2019 Time: 10:30 AM

C001 - Jones, Adrienne; C049 - Howard, salima; C125 - Davis, Danielle; D006 - Dolchan, mike; D117 - Pettus, Lakeisha; D120 - Talmadge, Alexander; D148 - Grant, Dennis; D198 - Ryan, Jessica; D217 - Heister, Rachel; D254 - Smith, Laverne; D271 - White, Daveeda; E151 - Skoczen, Franis; E170 - Watson, Quatina; E204 - Karikari, John; E219 - Norman, Alex

PUBLIC STORAGE # 23222, 1431 Ivy Hill Road, Philadelphia, PA 19150, (215) 309-8053
7/24/2019 Time: 11:30 AM

A118 - Bishop, Dwight; A200 - Muchlson, lalik; A205 - Brownlee, Briana; A212 - Richmond, Arnold; B425 - Henry, Eunice; C520 - Lee, Tnishia; E938 - Brown, Coutney; F1217 - BRACY, SANDRA H.; F1248 - Bryant, Tamara; G1340 - Crews, Shante; G1401 Dobson, James; H1517 - McKinley, Michael

PUBLIC STORAGE # 23216, 6225 Oxford Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19111, (215) 253-6093
7/24/2019 Time: 12:30 PM

A119 - Taylor, Justina; A220 - Valdez, David; A221 - Mcmichaels, Patricia; A324 - Murphy, Lashanda; A356 - Juliao, Kimberly; A432 - Adams, Walt, A456 - Jones, Ikenya; A524 - Dansby, Tyrone; A635 - Fitzgerald, Shawntel; A647 - Howard-Leland, Jane; A733 - Williams, Maurice; A752 - Anthony, Christina; A776 - Cross, Jamila; A823 - Ruiz, Nina; A847 - Adem, Abraham; A872 - Playfair, Kenisha; B1110 - Dailey, Justin; B1308 - Haynes, Sharon; B1410 - Debnam, Tiffany; B1505 - Tucker-Boskie, Tamika; B1608 - Hayes, Carolyn; B1720 - Fisher, Patric; B1819 - Hayes, Shanieca; C2114 - Torres, Shanira; C2125 - Johnson, Ernestine; C2516 - Troutman, James; C2931 - Grange, Chanel

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A tropical vacation to St. Lucia may be *easier than you thought!*

METRO STAFF
letters@metro.us

ALL IMAGES PROVIDED

Booking yourself a vacation to a tropical destination is something you could easily put off for a myriad of different reasons. While some of these obstacles can be legitimate, some can be easily attributed to simply being too hesitant to pull the trigger. Well, now with more affordable flights leaving to the island destination of St. Lucia than ever before, a relaxing beach vacation far away from work and life's responsibilities might be easier than you thought.

With direct and nonstop service on American Airlines from Miami, Charlotte and Philadelphia; on JetBlue from New York and Boston; on Delta from Atlanta; and on United Airlines from New Jersey and Chicago, you can book a trip to St. Lucia that fits around your schedule. And when you get there, you can book a stay at two of the island's most renowned resorts, Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa and Serenity at Coconut Bay: a girlfriend getaway, a spa getaway, a break once the kids are back in school, for couples, for families, for everyone.

Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa

Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa is the most popular, award-winning Premium All-Inclusive resort on St. Lucia. The resort takes all of the budgeting stress out of your trip by offering premium amenities including 9 restaurants serving unlimited à la carte and buffet style dining at indoor, outdoor and stunning oceanside locations as well unlimited top shelf spirits at seven bars so you can focus on exploring the island.

See the island in special ways such as Dune Buggy Tours originating at the resort, the Piton Zip Tour and the Catamaran Land & Sea Adventure, all of which show off the iconic Pitons UNESCO World Heritage Site. But once you head back to the resort after venturing out, you will be able to relax in style at one of the world's greatest pools as the resort received the 2019 Islands All-Inclusive Award for "Best Resort Pool" for the Cocoland Waterpark, the island's largest. This amazing Waterpark features a Lazy River and the Coconut Cannon, it's the fastest slide, enclosed for a thrill that shoots riders out into the CocoLand Plunge Pool.

While adults can enjoy these watery attractions, guests bringing their families can bring their children to the resorts Splash Wing, including three pools, the CocoLand Waterpark and Kidz Klub. The resort's Harmony wing is an adults-only oasis featuring two pools, romantic cabanas and suntracker decks specially designed for two also perfect for grown-ups staying in Splash when the kids are at play.

Serenity at Coconut Bay

For an adults-only experience, Serenity at Coconut Bay is perfect for those looking for a luxurious all-inclusive stay with unlimited service and unlimited piece of mind. Perfect for couples looking to get away with incredibly private and spacious – from 1200-1900 square feet –

Plunge Pool Butler suites with round the clock butler service to bring you food and refreshments at your beck and call.

Guests can relax in poolside cabanas offering undisturbed comfort at the Serenity Pool with plush furnishings and refreshments including lunch or a luxurious candlelit private dinner under the stars. Oceanfront beach cabanas feature with freshwater showers, daybeds and lounge chairs along with beverages, fresh towels and a picnic lunch for peak relaxation. The Serenity experience is tailor made and customized for every guest's needs before they arrive with dining experiences set up by the pool, beachside, or under the stars in their private suite in addition to the Greathouse Restaurant.

Guests at Serenity will receive exclusive private tours of some of St. Lucia's most amazing destinations including playing in the mud baths at the world's only drive-in volcano, swimming under a waterfall, seeing the world-famous Piton mountains, and spectacular 360° island views at the world's second highest lighthouse.

Book your trip to St. Lucia today with savings up to 70% for fall, head over to cbayresort.com, serenity-atcoconutbay.com or call 877-252-0304 today.

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NFL betting: Early bets on NFC East

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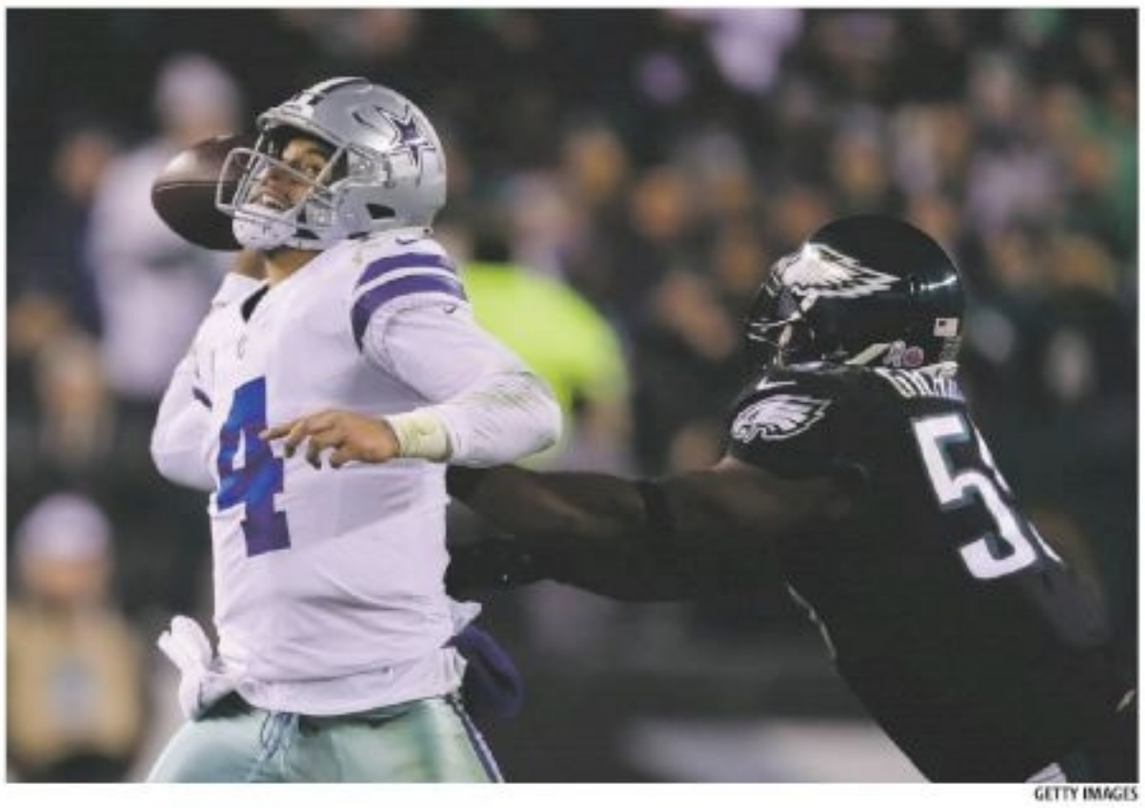
MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.



GETTY IMAGES

As we've outlined several times over the past few weeks, smart bettors often get preemptive strikes in when it comes to football betting. Odds are bound to change over the next few weeks as the mainstream public decides on which teams it does and does not like for the 2019 NFL season.

There are a ton of specific betting opportunities right now at **MetroBet.us/Sugar,** including division winner odds. To get there at **MetroBet.us/Sugar,** simply go to the NFL tab in the left-hand column, go to the "Futures" tab in the middle of your screen, and finally scroll down to "January 25, 2020."

Today, we'll take a look at the NFC East, where the Eagles are favored to take home the crown. Here are the current NFC East odds:

Eagles -106
Cowboys +140
Redskins +900
Giants +1200

The Eagles aren't quite as big a favorite to win the division as they were last year, when they had -155 odds. The Cowboys were +375 a year ago, and wound up taking the division by a hair.

It's hard to imagine either the Redskins or Giants stealing the division this season as both franchises look like they'll be among the worst in the league (I'm thinking four total wins for the Redskins and three for New York).

So for now, let's focus on the Cowboys. Dallas was alarmingly quiet this offseason as they did not acquire any big names in free agency and they also did not have a first-round pick following the Amari Cooper trade. The thinking in Dallas is that Dak Prescott and Cooper will have even better rapport in 2019 with a full training camp with one another under their belts, but there's not much to suggest here that the team will increase its win total dramatically in 2019 following a 10-6 campaign.

The Cowboys have won the NFC East three times under Jason Garrett, and in each season following a divisional crown they have been significantly worse. In 2014-15, Dallas went from 12 wins to four wins. And in 2016-17, they went from 13 wins to nine wins.

Here's betting on that trend to continue.

The play: $50 on Eagles at -106 (payout of 97.17 with win)

TWEET OF THE DAY

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Best Bets

MLB Futures: AL MVP

AL MVP: DJ LeMahieu (+500)

Mike Trout (-550) is a deserving favorite to win his third career MVP. However, the price on him is much too short to be worthwhile. Trout's campaign could also take a hit once the Angels fall out of the pennant race. Those looking for a value bet in this market could do far worse than Yankees second baseman DJ LeMahieu.

LeMahieu is on pace to eclipse his season-high home run total (15) with relative ease, as he's at 12 with 74 games to go. He leads all qualified AL batters in average (.336) and trails only the Royals' Whit Merrifield in hits (117-113). LeMahieu's hits at the top of the order have been timely, too, as he's brought in 63 runs this season, just four behind Trout.

ROBERT CRISCOLA

Now that Aaron Judge and the rest of the Yankees' cavalry have returned, LeMahieu is in position to see even better pitches from the opposition in fear of Judge's power. The LSU product typically thrives in September, going 99-for-318 (.311) over the last three seasons, which is significantly higher than his .301 lifetime average.

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MLB FUTURES

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USWNT PROVING THAT WOMEN'S SOCCER IS HERE TO STAY IN USA

PANTORNO'S PERCH

JOE PANTORNO
@JoePantorno

Upon a sea of humanity and confetti, Wednesday's victory parade for the United States women's national team confirmed what has been coming for decades.

Women's soccer is taking over.

Almost 1 million fans lined the streets of New York City to pay homage to a group of women who are helping revolutionize the sports scene in the United States.

The USWNT won their fourth World Cup on Sunday in a 2-0 triumph over the Netherlands. It capped off the monthlong tournament from France in which the Americans dominated, outscoring their opponents, 26-3.

Not only did their performance live up to the heavy expectations of being the No. 1 team in the world, but it also continued the growth of a sport in a country that has been hesitant to accept it.

Soccer has been knocking on the door of the Big 4 (MLB, NBA, NFL, NHL) for years as the advancements in technology helped bring the high-flying men's World Cup, along with international leagues in England, Spain and Germany, into American living rooms.

The problem was (and continues to be) that American soccer on the men's side continues to lag behind the world powers.

MLS is still looked upon as a second-tier organization compared to the Premier League, Bundesliga, or La Liga. The national team is still licking its wounds after missing out on the 2018 World Cup. It prompted an organizational shift that will take some time to get the team back into the international conversation — even with the likes of Christian Pulisic and Weston McKinnie offering hope for the future.

U.S. women's soccer team at New York City ticker-tape parade. LENYON WHITAKER

The women's game, even with American dominance since the World Cup began in 1991, has seemingly lagged in popularity behind the disappointing men's side despite a far-more impressive résumé.

It seemed as though the women's national team would capture the nation once every few years between World Cups and Olympic Games, but never build off it. It was no fault of their own as a couple of large factors played into that notion.

A professional women's soccer league in the United States, the NWSL, looks to finally be sticking following several failed attempts to provide a legitimate top flight in the country since 2000.

The nine-team league has been operating since 2012 with some of women's soccer's biggest stars coming stateside to play. However, its reach has been subdued even while playing during a slow time in the American sports schedule.

Why? They are deal-

CONTINUED ON P. 24

College of Liberal Arts

ARE YOU 65-80 YEARS OLD AND INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN A PAID RESEARCH STUDY?

The Neuroeconomics Lab at Temple University is conducting a research study investigating neural and physiological processes. We are looking for people ages 65 to 80 to participate in this 2-part study. During the appointments, you and a friend will be asked to complete surveys and play computer games, and one of you will undergo an MRI brain scan while playing the games. This study will require two separate appointments at Temple University Main Campus.

Payment: $25 per hour inside the scanner and $10 per hour outside the scanner – with the opportunity to earn up to $100 extra.

Eligibility requirements:
- No current psychiatric or neurological illness
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The study will provide you with a research report from any cognitive assessments you complete and non-medical images of your brain upon request.

Please call or email us for more information regarding the study. We look forward to hearing from you.

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WOMEN'S SOCCER HERE TO STAY (CONT.)

-ing with a sports market largely controlled and populated by viewers with short attention spans, begrudging to fully accept both soccer and women's sports.

That's not much of an assumption, either. Just scroll through the comments of a Facebook or Twitter post celebrating this team. You'll see just how stupid — to put it bluntly — some of these folks are.

For some reason, there has been a hesitancy to give full credit to a group of strong, trailblazing women. They are not only building the American brand of soccer, but they are inspiring millions, regardless of gender, to get into the beautiful game.

Megan Rapinoe backed up her activism for equal pay and exposure, along with her abhorrence of the Trump administration, with the Golden Boot and Golden Ball as the top scorer and player of the World Cup.

Fans cheering on U.S. women's soccer team at Wednesday's New York City ticker-tape parade. LENYON WHITAKER

Yes, women can talk a big game and back it up on the field of play, too.

Rose Lavelle drew comparisons to Belgium and Real Madrid superstar Eden Hazard with her talismanic work in the midfield, her goal in the final skyrocketing her status as a new face of American soccer.

Alex Morgan torched Thailand for five goals, scored another in the semifinal against England and started an internet sensation when she sipped some tea in celebration.

Yes, women can celebrate just like NFL stars do after touchdowns or MLB sluggers do following home runs.

No, they are not being extra-arrogant or disrespectful. You're just looking for things to be mad at.

Much to the chagrin of those folks, it looks like the women's game isn't going anywhere anytime soon. The efforts of the Rapinoes, the Lavelles, the Morgans, the Julie Ertzes, the Christen Press', the Abby Dahlkempers and the Alyssa Naehers are helping reach new heights.

Shortly after the Americans' semifinal win over England, ESPN announced that they would broadcast 14 NWSL matches this season on its family of networks beginning on Saturday.

It will allow soccer fans of all ages and genders to see more than 55 players that competed in the Women's World Cup this summer.

The league is getting a big backer, too, as Budweiser became the NWSL's top sponsor to support development and exposure.

It's about time.

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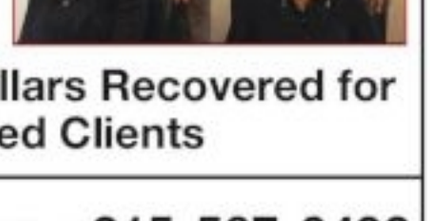
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ENTERTAINMENT

LEGAL NOTICES

Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, June Term, 2019, No. 005647 and No. 005648. Notice is hereby given that on June 24th, 2019, the petitions of Sean Robert Costello and Nicole Lee Trent, were filed praying for a decree to change his name to Sean Robert Flynn and her name to Nicole Lee Flynn. The Court has fixed July 19, 2019 at 12:00 PM, in Room No. 691, City Hall, Philadelphia, PA for hearing. All persons interested may appear and show cause if any they have, why the prayer of the said petition should not be granted.

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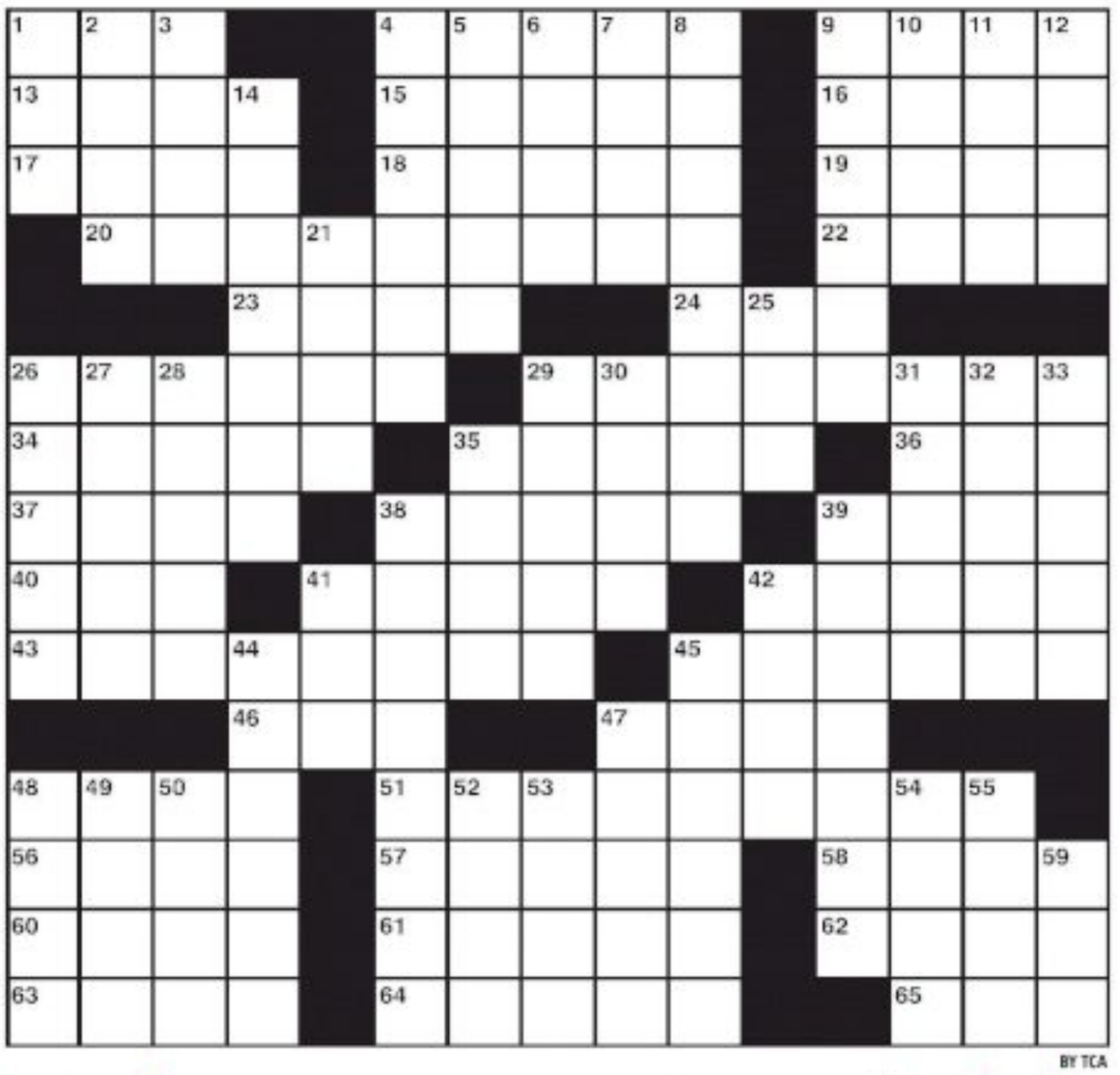
ACROSS
1 Evergreen tree
4 Move just a bit
9 Out of __ world; extraordinary
13 Alimony payers
15 Stringed instrument
16 Wedding ring?
17 Setting for "The King and I"
18 Aggravated
19 Come __; find
20 Crossed
22 Stitch up
23 Stitches
24 Photo __
26 Strut about pompously
29 Cowboy hats
34 Fish basket
35 "Here, __ and Everywhere"; Beatles hit
36 Energy
37 Rex or Robert
38 Peruses
39 German man
40 "Hey Diddle Diddle, the cat __ the fiddle..."
41 Lends a hand
42 Henry or Peter
43 Good enough
45 Unlike casual clothes
46 Solemn assent
47 Parka feature
48 Lace place
51 In the highest position
56 Extended
57 Lunch hours
58 Courts
60 Suffix for favor or fashion
61 Male bee
62 Near, in poetry
63 Gifts for kids
64 Alley cat
65 __ down; reclined

DOWN
1 Pro vote
2 Leave the room
3 __ out; become dilapidated
4 Eccentric
5 Those listed in a will
6 Ailments
7 Abscond
8 Tricycle riders
9 All __; clumsy
10 Remain optimistic
11 Monopoly token
12 Beach surface
14 Crushed
21 Calf meat
25 Fed
26 Leftover piece
27 Fight site
28 Canary's lunch
29 In good __; physically fit
30 Turner & Allen
31 Unlocks
32 Geeks
33 Aerosol
35 TV's "To __ the Truth"
38 Ricochets
39 Square dance
41 Grasped
42 "__ Here to Eternity"
44 Military attacks
45 Tommy or Jimmy
47 Reddish dye
48 Mini blind piece
49 Drifter
50 __ child; kid with no siblings
52 Cruise stop
53 Penniless
54 Dirt
55 Old Roman robe
59 Bashful



BY TCA

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P	I	T	C	H	E	R	T	G	A
O	S	E	O	G	C	D	G	A	A
T	E	E	K	O	N	T	R	B	B
S	E	U	I	I	F	I	A	U	U
T	K	M	B	R	R	S	N	C	L
R	N	H	C	E	E	T	D	N	R
O	A	P	D	B	Z	S	S	C	I
H	Y	S	A	F	I	E	L	D	N
S	O	L	M	U	I	D	A	T	S
X	L	E	N	U	R	E	M	O	H

Baseball
Bat
Bunt
Catch
Field
Grand Slam
Home Run
Inning
Pitcher
Red Sox
Series
Shortstop
Stadium
Strike
Yankees

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	T	H	N	K
S	N	E	O	I
E	E	L	I	N
U	Q	F	O	G

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			2		9			
9	1	5	3		6			2
2	3	6	7		4			
						5	2	
8		3				7		4
	4	2						
			5		3	9	4	1
5			1		8	2	3	6
			4		2			

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B	O	N	A		C	H	I	C	O		K	I	W	I
O	P	E	N		R	E	C	E	P	T	I	O	N	S
G	E	M		L	U	R	E	D		R	I	N	S	E
		P	L	E	B	E			J	A	N			
S	A	L	O	N	S			N	E	I	G	H	S	
A	D	O	P	T		P	L	E	A	T		A	L	S
R	O	Y	S		C	L	O	W	N		T	R	U	E
I	R	E		T	H	U	G	S		B	A	R	G	E
	E	D	D	I	E	S			T	R	U	I	S	M
			E	L	F			S	E	A	T	S		
M	A	P	L	E		T	O	T	E	D		B	I	B
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A	U	N	T		S	I	N	K	S		A	R	C	H
L	A	K	E		P	O	K	E	Y		U	G	H	

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